

Claims

What is claimed is:

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1. A furniture piece, which comprises:
- a plurality of rib units, each of which has (i) at least one functional surface such that a composite of the functional surfaces of the plurality of rib units defines at least one functional surface of said furniture piece, and (ii) at least one supporting member configured according to a pattern which varies from one rib unit to another such that a composite of the supporting members provides support for said furniture piece and its occupants;
- interconnecting means for securing each of the rib units to the others; and
- spacer means for situating each of the rib units in a position which, when secured by the interconnecting means, is separated from each of the adjoining rib units.
2. The invention recited in claim 1, in which each rib unit comprises two functional surfaces such that a composite of the functional surfaces of the plurality of rib units defines a seat surface and a back support surface.
3. The invention recited in claim 1, in which each rib unit comprises one supporting member configured according to a pattern which varies from one rib unit to another such that a composite of the supporting members forms a substantially sinusoidal shape.
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4. The invention recited in claim 1, in which each rib unit comprises one supporting member configured according to a pattern which varies from one rib unit to another such that a composite of the supporting members forms a substantially elliptical shape.

5. The invention recited in claim 1, in which each rib unit comprises one supporting member configured according to a pattern which varies from one rib unit to another such that a composite of the supporting members forms a substantially circular shape.

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6. The invention recited in claim 1, in which the interconnecting means comprises one or more rods passing through each rib unit and spacer means.

7. The invention recited in claim 1, in which each rib unit is made of wood.

8. The invention recited in claim 1, in which each rib unit is made of metal.

9. The invention recited in claim 1, in which each rib unit is made of plastic.

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